

THE OFFICE ACTION

In the Office Action dated April 2, 2003, the Examiner objected to the wording of the Abstract and, in particular, to the use of the phrase "[d]escription of". The Examiner also objected to the specification as failing to contain appropriate headings. The Examiner rejected claims 1-10 and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Examiner rejected the wording used in claims 1, 8 and 13. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,740,335 to Scholz et al. ('Scholz'). The Examiner indicated that claims 3-7 and 10 contained allowable subject matter.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following comments. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 13, 14 and 16 remain pending in the application.

Amendments were made to the abstract and the specification to address the Examiner's concerns. Specifically, the phrase "[d]escription of" has been removed from the abstract and appropriate headings have been inserted into the specification. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Amendments have been made to claims 1, 8 and 13 to address the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection. Specifically, agreement between the preamble and body recitations in claim 1 has been accomplished with the consistent use of the word "embossed" throughout the claims. In claim 8, the units of distance (millimeters) have been inserted. In addition, claim 13 has been amended to more clearly recite the structure of the composite material. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Scholz. Applicants have now amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of previous claim 10, which

the Examiner has indicated contained allowable subject matter. The particular sequence of steps in claim 1 is clearly supported in the specification, in particular page 5, paragraph 1, which shows that the interlacing (radiation treatment) of the foil can be done after an embossing process. The treatment of the embossed foil with electron beams to such an extent that a gel content of approximately 15 to 65% is present in the embossed foil is mentioned on page 5, line 28. Since the remainder of the rejected claims depend from newly amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants have also made several minor corrections to the claims to achieve consistency of language. No new matter is introduced by these changes.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing comments, Applicants submit that claims 1-5, 7-9, 13, 14 and 16 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request early notification of such allowance. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to attempt to resolve any such issues.

If any fee is due in conjunction with the filing of this response, Applicants authorize deduction of that fee from Deposit Account 06-0308.

Respectfully submitted,

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